

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SP-02 PA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8330

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: INACCURATE PRESS REPORT OF CIVAIR NEGOTIATION

REF: BANGKOK 17866

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESS QUERIES BASED ON HIGHLY ERRORNEOUS NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF CIVAIR NEGOTIATION REPORTED REFTEL, WE ARE PREPARED INTEND TO RESPOND WITH FOLLOWING:

2. QTE THE DELEGATIONS MET FOR TWO WEEKS ENDING NOV. 8 TO DISCUSS ROUTE RIGHTS AVAILABLE TO EACH SIDE UNDER THE BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT. BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAIN OUTCOME OF A PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF ROUTES BY PAN AM AND TWA WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING SERVICES OF BOTH THOSE AIRLINES TO BANGKOK, THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED ON A RECESS IN THE TALKS UNTIL FEBRUARY OR MARCH WHEN THE OUTCOME OF THE PROPOSED PAN AM-TWA EXCHANGE OF ROUTES SHOULD BE MORE CLEAR.

Q1: HAS THE U.S. TURNED DOWN A PROPOSAL, AS REPORTED IN THE BANGKOK WORLD, THAT THAI FLAG CARRIERS BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE 32 FLIGHTS A WEEK TO THE U.S. JUST AS U.S. AIRLINES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE RIGHT TO FLY INTO BANGKOK 32 TIMES A WEEK?

A1: WE DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
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WHILE THE TALKS ARE IN RECESS. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS

BY ANY CARRIER IS NOT AN ISSUE. GOVERNMENTS EXCHANGE LANDING RIGHTS. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS IS DETERMINED BY THE AMOUNT OF PASSENGER AND FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

Q2: IS THE U.S., AS REPORTED IN THE BANGKOK WORLD, DENYING A THAI REQUEST TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN BANGKOK AND TOKYO?

A2: NO. THAT REPORT RESULTS FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING OF HOW BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENTS OPERATE. THE U.S. CANNOT ALLOW OR DISALLOW THAI LANDING RIGHTS AT TOKYO. THAT WOULD BE A MATTER BETWEEN JAPAN AND THAILAND.

Q3: WHAT ARE THE THAI SEEKING IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS?

A3: IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO RESPOND TO THAT. FURTHER, WE DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHILE THE TALKS ARE IN RECESS.

Q4: WHAT ARE U.S. OBJECTIVES IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS?

A4: GENERALLY, TO FIND A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT. BEYOND THAT, WE DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHILE THE TALKS ARE IN RECESS.

Q5: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW?

A5: THE TWO DELEGATIONS WILL REPORT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS, THEN RESUME THE TALKS IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH.
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